

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1469

To amend the Head Start Act to provide grants to Tribal Colleges and Universities to increase the number of postsecondary degrees in early childhood education and related fields earned by Indian Head Start agency staff members, parents of children served by such an agency, and members of the community involved.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 28 (legislative day, JULY 21), 2003

Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. INOUE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Head Start Act to provide grants to Tribal Colleges and Universities to increase the number of postsecondary degrees in early childhood education and related fields earned by Indian Head Start agency staff members, parents of children served by such an agency, and members of the community involved.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Tribal Colleges and
5 Universities Head Start Partnership Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The Head Start Act requires that 50 per-
4 cent or more of teachers nationwide in center-based
5 Head Start programs must have at least an asso-
6 ciate degree in early childhood education, or a field
7 related to early childhood education, by 2003.

8 (2) A goal of the Head Start Act is to ensure
9 that all Head Start programs nationwide will provide
10 accredited continuing education for Head Start staff
11 that provides college or university credit for such
12 staff. However, Indian Head Start programs are
13 generally located in areas isolated from mainstream
14 colleges or universities where such credit can be
15 earned.

16 (3) The vast majority of the Nation's 34 Tribal
17 Colleges and Universities have early childhood edu-
18 cation programs and, of these, 32 are accredited, or
19 designated candidates for accreditation, by national
20 accrediting associations.

21 (4) Tribal Colleges and Universities were cre-
22 ated by Indians for Indians primarily on rural and
23 remote Indian reservations, which were virtually ex-
24 cluded from the Nation's system of higher education.

25 (5) Tribal Colleges and Universities are en-
26 gaged community institutions, offering higher edu-

1 cation and continuing education opportunities to in-
 2 dividuals who otherwise might find attaining such
 3 education impossible due to family responsibilities,
 4 and financial and geographic barriers.

5 (6) Tribal Colleges and Universities have been
 6 more successful than any other institutions of higher
 7 education in educating Indians and helping to retain
 8 Indians in high-need fields such as nursing and
 9 teaching. According to a 2000 survey, over 80 per-
 10 cent of Tribal College and University graduates go
 11 on to further higher education or become employed
 12 in the local community.

13 (7) Through partnerships developed between
 14 Tribal Colleges and Universities and Head Start
 15 programs nationwide—

16 (A) Indian Head Start agency personnel
 17 can gain greater access to accredited college
 18 and university programs in their career field;

19 (B) the knowledge, skills, and aptitude of
 20 those working at Indian Head Start agencies
 21 will be increased, thus enabling them to provide
 22 high quality and comprehensive services to In-
 23 dian children and their families; and

24 (C) the health, early childhood develop-
 25 ment, and school readiness of Indian children

1 will be improved as a result of increased staff
 2 knowledge, skills, and aptitude.

3 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

4 (1) promote social competencies and school
 5 readiness in Indian children; and

6 (2) provide high quality, accredited educational
 7 opportunities to Indian Head Start agency staff so
 8 that they can better deliver services that enhance the
 9 social and cognitive development of low-income chil-
 10 dren through the provision of health, educational,
 11 nutritional, social, and other services to low-income
 12 children and their families.

13 **SEC. 3. TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY-HEAD START**
 14 **PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.**

15 The Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) is
 16 amended by inserting after section 648A the following:

17 **“SEC. 648B. TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY-HEAD START**
 18 **PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.**

19 “(a) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY-HEAD START
 20 PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.—

21 “(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary is authorized to
 22 award grants, of not less than 5 years duration, to
 23 Tribal Colleges and Universities to—

24 “(A) implement education programs that
 25 include tribal culture and language and increase

1 the number of associate, baccalaureate, and
2 graduate degrees in early childhood education
3 and related fields that are earned by Indian
4 Head Start agency staff members, parents of
5 children served by such an agency, and mem-
6 bers of the tribal community involved;

7 “(B) develop and implement the programs
8 under subparagraph (A) in technology-mediated
9 formats; and

10 “(C) provide technology literacy programs
11 for Indian Head Start agency staff members
12 and children and families of children served by
13 such an agency.

14 “(2) STAFFING.—The Secretary shall ensure
15 that the American Indian Programs Branch of the
16 Head Start Bureau of the Department of Health
17 and Human Services shall have staffing sufficient to
18 administer the programs under this section and to
19 provide appropriate technical assistance to Tribal
20 Colleges and Universities receiving grants under this
21 section.

22 “(b) APPLICATION.—Each Tribal College or Univer-
23 sity desiring a grant under this section shall submit an
24 application to the Secretary, at such time, in such manner,
25 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-

1 quire, including a certification that the Tribal College or
 2 University has established a partnership with 1 or more
 3 Indian Head Start agencies for the purpose of conducting
 4 the activities described in subsection (a).

5 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 “(1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—

7 The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the
 8 meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the
 9 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

10 “(2) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The
 11 term ‘Tribal College or University’ means an institu-
 12 tion—

13 “(A) defined by such term in section
 14 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
 15 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)); and

16 “(B) determined to be accredited or a can-
 17 didate for accreditation by a nationally recog-
 18 nized accrediting agency or association.

19 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 20 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
 21 \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2004 and such sums as may
 22 be necessary for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2008.”.

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